



# Importance of Breed diversity in our UK sheep system (from meeting in Jan 2019)

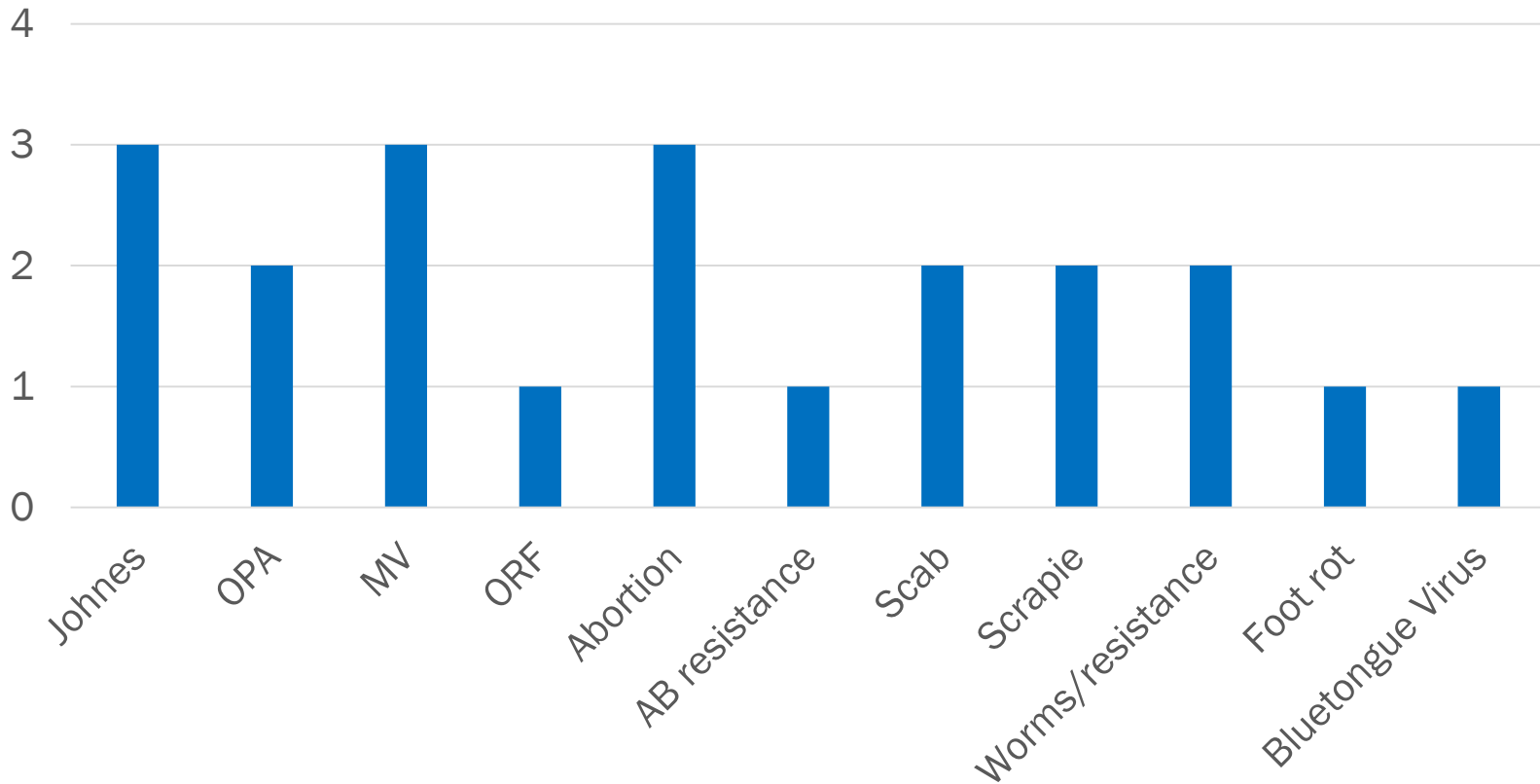
1. Concern over flock health status, particularly resistance issues, is resulting in more farmers choosing to run closed flocks.
2. There is a lack of understanding in the value of upland breed traits within the cross bred ewe, and concern that some of these traits such as hardiness and mothering ability may be becoming weakened.
3. Selling cross bred breeding sheep is a highly important part of hill farming economics – hill farming would struggle to survive without access to breeding stock markets.
4. While stratified breeding and hill farming may be traditional practices there is a lot that can be done to make use of technology and innovation – tradition and innovation can complement each other.
5. The environment and delivery of public goods will be a very important part of the economics of hill farming, but it is important that sheep farming delivering public goods is commercial and productive – commercial sheep farming can deliver conservation objectives, but few farmers want to be conservation graziers.





# Breed Society Forum 2019

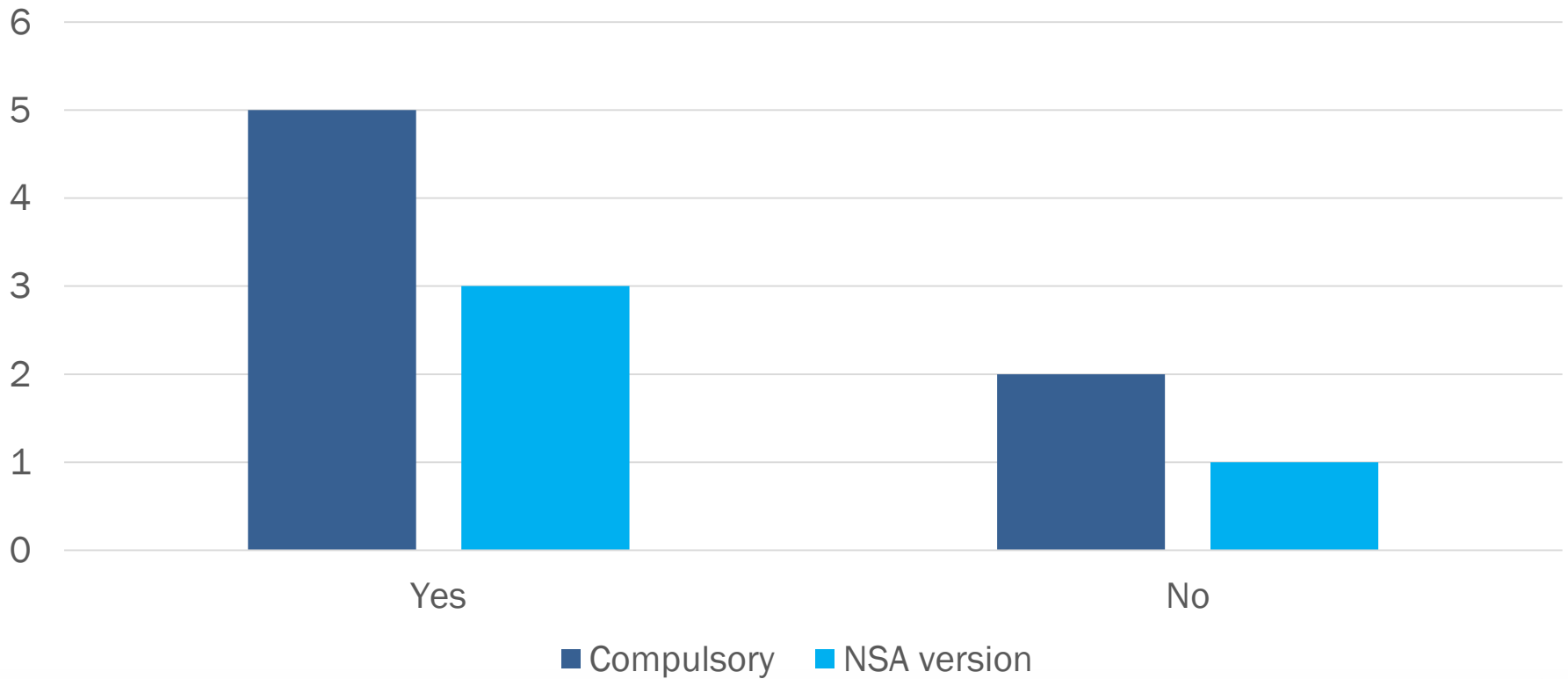
Diseases to monitor





# Breed Society Forum 2019

Do we need Sheep Health Assurance Schemes?





# Breed Society Forum 2019

- 💡 More advertising on how sustainable sheep farming is
- 💡 Need a voice for sheep farming in the media
- 💡 Encourage / subsidise flocks to MV screen
- 💡 Health schemes targeting some diseases - GO SLOW
- 💡 UK Food Security
- 💡 Show how ethical UK agriculture is
- 💡 Heritage Breeds
- 💡 Ensuring that the heritage breeds of sheep are promoted, supported to ensure their future is ensured
- 💡 Promote genetic improvement support (scoping study)





# Breed Society Forum 2019

- 💡 Public goods: environmentally friendlier approach of UK production compared to others
- 💡 More wool
- 💡 Don't forget F&M (2003) will have affected the hill sheep farms (many will have taken years to restock, i.e. not sold drafts))
- 💡 Welfare needs to be encouraged (e.g. vaccines, footrot) - Public good (agricultural bill)
- 💡 Vaccines are expensive and need to be rewarded for use
- 💡 Subsidise rather than blanket health schemes and real farmer examples of this working, with a £/p value to farmers e.g. time saved, number of lambs increased by,
- 💡 Above two important for consumer perception

